

Facilitating Challenging Conversations in the Classroom

Friday, February 12, 2016
Library Events Area, Cunningham Memorial Library

Sponsors:

The Faculty Senate
The Faculty Center for Teaching Excellence
The Office of Student Success
The Cunningham Memorial Library

The goal of this workshop is to strengthen faculty comfort and skill sets in facilitating challenging classroom conversations, whether planned or that emerge spontaneously. The workshop is informed by how others across the country have sought to invest in faculty on this topic, particularly in recent weeks as an outgrowth of the attention to diversity and inclusion. The envisioned workshop goal will be achieved through a one-half day session as follows:

9:00-9:15am **Welcome and Context for Workshop**

9:15-10:30am **Student and Alumni Panel** (5 panelists)

Focus: Reflections on positive or negative learning experiences related to issues such as race, gender, sexuality, politics, religion, or other sensitive topics salient to them or a particular group to whom they belong or experience they may have had. Panelists will share how their backgrounds and previous life experiences intersected with the learning experience(s) and shaped their reactions to in and/or out-of-class discussions on the topic(s).

10:30-10:45am **Refreshment Break**

10:45-12noon **Faculty Panel** (5 panelists)

Focus: Faculty with deep experience facilitating challenging/ uncomfortable topics in or out of the classroom, planned or that emerged spontaneously, will speak to their experiences and offer counsel on good practices. Panelists will discuss when and/or how to introduce uncomfortable topics related to race, gender, sexuality, politics, religion, or other sensitive subjects along with how to create a classroom conducive to healthy debate and how to respond to controversial statements by students. Advice on how to interact successfully with diverse populations and to prepare students with the tools to do so in their lives after ISU will also be offered.

12:00-1:00pm **Lunch and Table Discussion**

Focus: Over a box lunch, attendees will discuss the issues raised, reflect on one's own teaching experience, and provide support/guidance for one another on how to apply the ideas heard for facilitating challenging conversations that lead to valuable student learning. Attendees will identify specific actions they can take/apply. Deans will also be invited to briefly speak to goals/opportunities they envision within their colleges related to this topic.

RSVPs requested by February 10:

https://indstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cvuDs91VImBtP5X

Staff are also welcome to come.



**Indiana State
University**